**WORLD WAR II (1941-45): CAUSES, EVENTS, OUTCOMES AND NATURE OF AUSTRALIA’S INVOLVEMENT IN RABAUL**

**SOME CAME HOME: AN INSIGHT INTO THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT OF WWII ON AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY**

**CONTENT** (including links to Australian Curriculum):

**Examine Australia’s relationship with New Guinea and its implications during World War II**

**(ACDSEH024) Literacy; Creative thinking**

* Locate Rabaul on a map
* Identify how, when and why Rabaul became an Australian territory

**Investigate how the threat of a Japanese invasion contributed to Australia’s changed allegiance**

[**(ACDSEH110)**](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/ACDSEH110) **Literacy; Critical and creative thinking**

* Why did Australia support Britain so strongly in the First World War?
* Who became Australia’s main ally in December 1941? Explain the reasons for this change, identifying key events and people.
* Explain why Rabaul was a key strategic military base
* Examine the different groups involved in the defence of Rabaul and the consequence of the Japanese invasion

**Examine Australia’s responsibility to the people at Rabaul and Ambon**

**(ACDSEH107) Ethical Understanding**

At the War Cabinet meeting on 12 December 1941 the Australian Government Ministers were presented with 3 options for the Rabaul garrison:

1) Do nothing

2) Reinforce the garrison

3) Withdraw and abandon the area

* What choice did the Government make?
* What were the reasons for this decision?
* Consider consequences
* Reflect on whether it was an ethical choice

**The experiences of Australians during World War II**

[**(ACDSEH108)**](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/ACDSEH108) **- Critical and creative thinking; Personal and social capability**

Examine the different reactions and recollections of POWs

* Appreciate diverse perspectives
* Identify and clarify information and ideas

**STUDENT TASK**

This task can be completed by students, either as individual or group work, over two or three periods. It can also be broken into stand-alone sections with a brief background overview.

**Part 1: New Guinea becomes a mandated Australian Territory**

**Part 2: The Fall of Rabaul**

**Part3: The Fall of Ambon**

**Part 4: Remembering 1942: The Defence of the ‘Malay Barrier’**

**Part 5: ‘Some Came Home’**

**TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION SHEET**

**AUSTRALIANS AT RABAUL**

For most Australians little is known of Australia’s close relationship to New Guinea, or of the role Rabaul had in both World Wars.

**Pre-World War I Rabaul**

Australians, especially the Queenslanders, were concerned about the growing German influence in New Guinea. The fear was that Germany would take possession of eastern New Guinea. So in 1883 the resident magistrate on Thursday Island was sent to Port Moresby to raise the British flag and claim all of eastern New Guinea for Queen Victoria. The problem was that the British Government did not agree to this arrangement. In November 1884 Britain and Germany agreed to share the territory of eastern New Guinea. On 1st September 1906 British New Guinea was handed over to Australia and renamed Papua. Hence, at the beginning of the First World War the island of New Guinea was divided up by three foreign countries: the western half was held by the Dutch; Germany had the north-east section; and Australia was in possession of the south-eastern area. Rabaul was the capital of German New Guinea.

**First World War**

On 6th August 1914, two days after Britain declared war on Germany, Australia and New Zealand were asked by Britain to occupy German New Guinea, capture the wireless stations, and prevent its harbours being used by German war ships. Australia quickly agreed and the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (A.N. & M.E.F.), consisting of 500 Royal Naval reservists and a battalion of infantry and ancillary troops, was specially raised in the first week of the war. This volunteer force was recruited, equipped trained and left Australia for New Guinea on 19 August. Such was the support for the British Empire.

Six men from the A.N. & M.E.F. were killed and four wounded in the successful battle to seize the wireless station at Bitapaka on 11th September. They were the first Australian engagement casualties of the First World War. On 13th September the British flag was raised at Rabaul. On 14th September, AE1, one of Australia’s first two submarines, was lost off the coast of Rabaul. This submarine has never been found. 16 men from the Royal Australian Navy and 19 men from the Royal Navy died. By the end of the year German New Guinea was secured and was placed under Australian military rule for the next seven years.

The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914 -1918, Volume 10, contains over 400 pages and the main body of the work is devoted to the administration of the German Possessions in the Southern Pacific. While this wasn’t a major battle it is a very important part of Australia’s military and general history. The six A.N. & M.E.F. servicemen who died in the battle to capture the Bitapaka wireless station and the campaign fought should not be forgotten because it contributed to the British government’s strategy to capture all German colonies. It also removed a real threat to Australia by capturing the German radio station at Bitapaka and the strategic harbour at Rabaul, preventing their use by German ships.

The following Australian War Memorial information sheets on these Australian operations:

Operations against German Pacific territories

AE1

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E145> <https://awm.gov.au/collection/U50785>

**The Paris Peace Conference**

After the First World War ended the question arose regarding control of the former German New Guinea territories. The commander of the A.N. & M.E.F., William Holmes, thought the islands should be retained as British possessions. At the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 the USA President, Woodrow Wilson, wanted the new League of Nations to have total responsibility for the former German colony. Australian Prime Minister, William Hughes, rejected this proposal, as he wanted Australia to annex the former German colony. The British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, intervened and brokered a compromise. Australia could have control over the former German colony but there would be restrictions. On 9 May 1921, Australia formally was granted a mandate to administer what was German New Guinea on behalf of the League of Nations. Whilst this mandate was of a fairly low level it did prevent Australia from establishing military or naval bases or any fortifications in the islands. Australia adhered to this obligation, which had very serious consequences for Australia in the Second World War. Rabaul was the capital of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea and Port Moresby the administrative centre for the Australian Territory of Papua. Now Australia had to defend an area, which was more than twice the size of Victoria.

**Between the Two World Wars**

The German properties were acquired with some compensation given to the owners. Australians, especially Australian returned servicemen from the First World War, were encouraged to buy the copra plantations and the other businesses that were put up for sale. Many of these ex-servicemen would die in the New Guinea Islands or on the Montevideo Maru during the Second World War. Rabaul became a large cosmopolitan town of about 5,000 people - 800 Europeans, 1,000 Asians (a large Chinatown), and around 3,000 Indigenous people. The Australian settlers saw themselves as permanent residents. Rabaul was sometimes referred to as “a suburb of Anzac”. There were also a large number of missionaries (some German as well as Australian) in the islands looking after the educational and spiritual needs of the native population.

**World War Two**

In April 1941 the threat of war with Japan increased. The Australian Government sent forces to the islands as part of “The Malay Barrier” strategy in order to protect the airstrips north of the Australian mainland and the strategic harbour at Rabaul from Japanese attacks. The 2/22nd Battalion was sent to Rabaul with supporting units including Army nurses. The garrison of 1,399 at Rabaul was known as Lark Force. Similar size forces were sent to Ambon (Gull Force) and Timor (Sparrow Force). These battalions were undermanned and relatively poorly armed. They lacked significant naval or air support and would not be able to withstand any large scale Japanese attacks. There were also small Independent Companies, commando units, like the 1st Independent Company based at New Ireland.

When Japan entered the Second World War, the Australian women and children were evacuated from Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands. However, others including the Chinese population, and male civil servants and plantation owners were not allowed to leave. Lark Force had not trained for the tropics and had no plans for retreat except for the final order “every man for himself”. Lark Force was not reinforced. This decision by the Australian War Cabinet on 12 December 1941 would eventually lead to the deaths of 1,400, perhaps 1,500 Australians – around 1,125 POWs and 275 civilian internees.

**The Fall of Rabaul**

On 12 December 1941 the Prime Ministers Department sent a Most Secret and Important Cable to Washington referring to the Lark Force garrison at Rabaul as being “hostages to fortune“. The Japanese bombing of Rabaul began on 4 January. The inhabitants of the islands were left to their fate and on 23 January 1942 5,000 or more men supported by a large Naval Fleet attacked Rabaul. The fighting was soon over as the small garrison was no match for the huge Japanese armed forces.

**The Aftermath of the Fall of Rabaul**

The possession of Rabaul by the Japanese Armed Forces gave them one of the largest sea and air bases in the Pacific. This was a severe blow to the Curtin Government. They now knew that the door was open for a direct assault on northern Australia. Within a month of the fall of Rabaul, Darwin was bombed. The British couldn’t help even if they wanted to. Fortunately, the chief of the US Fleet, Admiral Earnest J. King, was also concerned by this Japanese presence and proposed a new US naval command in the waters off the east coast of Australia, extending east to Fiji, to be known as the ANZAC command area. On 26 January 1942, Admiral King instructed the commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Fleet, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, to send a cruiser and two destroyers to the ANZAC command area. These joined two Australia cruisers to act as a deterrent to any Japanese movements into the waters south of Rabaul. Australia’s defence strategy had changed. Our key ally was now the USA.

**References**

* Connor, John, Stockings, Craig ed., 2013, *The capture of German New Guinea* from the book, *Before the Anzac Dawn ( A military history of Australia to 1915 ) ,* Chapter 12, New South Publishing. University of New South Wales Press Ltd.
* Kelly, Paul, *100 Years: The Australian Story: Farwell to Great and Powerful Friends..* Allen and Unwin. Cows Nest . NSW. 2001.
* Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee (November 2009). *The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru. Time for Recognition. A Submission to the Commonwealth Government.*
* Nelson, H, Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History, Australian National University and M. Piggott, Australian War Memorial (July 1984). *Introduction to Official History of Australia in the War 1914 -1918, Volume 10 (10th Edition, 1941).* Published online by the Australian War Memorial with the assistance of the University of Queensland.
* Travers, B.H, Holmes, William,1983, *(1892-1917), Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 9. Melbourne University Press
* Wurth, Bob, 2008, *Australia’s Greatest Peril, 1942,* Pan Macmillan Australia.

**RESOURCES**

**Student access to an atlas or world map**

**INFORMATION SHEETS**

**Part 2: The Fall of Rabaul**

* The Fall of Rabaul overview

<http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/australias-war-19391945/events/japanese-advance-december-1941march-1942/fall> and then click onto

* Left to their fate…
* A miserable scene
* Hungry and ….cold

These web pages are from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs ( Canberra)‘s Anzac Portal, Australia and the Second World War, website and they summarize the fighting and what happened to the Australians who were at Rabaul and in the New Guinea islands when the Japanese invaded.

At least 1,400 Australians died as a consequence of this Japanese invasion. This included around 300 Australian civilians. Also, this was the first time that an Australian territory was invaded. Over 1,000 Australians were killed when the MS Montevideo Maru was sunk by an American submarine on 1 July 1942, Australians were killed in massacres & executions, and others just disappeared never to be found. Amazing around 400 Australians were able escape from the New Guinea island of New Britain thanks to the efforts of missionaries like Father Ted Harris and the patrol officer, John Keith McCarthy MBE. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mccarthy-john-keith-10910> .

More information about the MS Montevideo Maru and this Australian wartime history is at:

* The DVD, The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru. Schindler Video Production. Montevideo Maru Pty Ltd. Northgate. Queensland. <https://www.montevideomaru.com.au/contact.php> .This DVD is also available to teachers through Screenrights and Enhance TV at <https://www.enhancetv.com.au/video/the-tragedy-of-the-montevideo-maru/35092> .

**Screenrights** was established in 1990 to administer provisions in the Australian Copyright Act that allow educational institutions to copy from television and radio, provided payment is made to the copyright owners. More information is at <https://www.screenrights.org/about-us/what-we-do/overview> and <https://www.screenrights.org/content-users/australian-services/educational-licence> .

* The list of men who are recorded as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942 is on the National Archives of Australia’s website at [www.montevideomaru.naa.gov.au](http://www.montevideomaru.naa.gov.au) .
* The National Archives of Australia Fact Sheet on the Montevideo Maru. <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs266.aspx> .
* Looking for evidence. The handkerchief. <https://www.pngaa.net/Library/RudyBuckley.htm> .
* Address by the Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO: 1 July 2012. <https://www.memorial.org.au/About/BryceSpeech.htm> .
* One of the men who survived the Tol and Waitavalo Plantations massacres was Private Bill Cook. There is a film in the Montevideo Maru and Tol Plantation exhibit in the Australian War Memorial, WWII Gallery, Canberra, where Bill shows us where he was bayoneted 11 times.

**Part 3: The Fall of Ambon**

* The Fall of Ambon overview

<http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/australias-war-19391945/events/japanese-advance-december-1941march-1942/fall-ambon>

**Part 5: Some Came Home**

‘Some Came Home’ trailer, Schindler Entertainment

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Websites**

* 2/21st Battalion

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U56064>

* *2/22nd Battalion*

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U56065>

and 1st Independent Company <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U56146>

* POWs – New Britain and Timor <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/thaiburma-railway-and-hellfire-pass/locations/australian-prisoners-asia-pacific-7>
* Hellships <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/thaiburma-railway-and-hellfire-pass/events/journeys/peril-sea>
* New Britain 1944-45 <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/australias-war-19391945/events/last-battles/jungle-island>
* Remembering the Montevideo Maru and the Fall of Rabaul, Lt Gen David Morrison, Chief of Army 30 June 2012

<https://memorial.org.au/About/MorrisonSpeech.htm>

* Talk by Australian historian, Peter Stanley ‘Remembering 1942: The defence of the 'Malay barrier. Rabaul and Ambon, January 1942

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/1942-defence-of-the-Malay-barrier>

* The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru.- Time for Recognition, November 2009, A Submission to the Commonwealth Government, Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee

<https://www.memorial.org.au/About/Activities/Recognition.htm> .

* Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society’s website at [www.memorial.org.au](http://www.memorial.org.au)
* Rod Miller’s website at <http://www.montevideomaru.info/index.htm> .
* Article by Max Uechtritz: Our National Myopia – A History Forgotten. [www.memorial.org.au/Education/Myopia.pdf](http://www.memorial.org.au/Education/Myopia.pdf)

**This Australian history has also been included in the arts**. For example:

* Peter Garrett in the Midnight Oil song, In The Valley, wrote about his grandfather, Tom Garrett, going down on the MS Montevideo Maru,

<http://midnight-oil.info/discography/song/In-The-Valley>

* The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra which was designed by the noted Melbourne sculptor, James Parrett. <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/visitor-information/sculpture-garden/rabaul-montevideo-mar-memorial>
* A portrait of Tom Herket who was a POW during WWI and a civilian internee during WWII is in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. He has been listed as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru. At least 58 WWI Australian veterans are recorded as dying on this Japanese prisoner of war transport ship on 1 July 1942. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/ART96812>

**DVDs**

* **70th Anniversary Commemorative Events of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Tragedy.**

<http://www.memorial.org.au/About/Activities/DVDs.htm>

Contact the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia at [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

* David Schindler has produced a number of DVDs as well as **The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru.** These include **The Fall of Rabaul and Kavieng and Some Came Home.** In the **Some Came Home** DVD there are gripping accounts from WWII Australian and American POWs & civilian internees about their wartime experiences after the fall of Rabaul. Contact Schindler Entertainment at P O Box 303 Northgate Qld. 4013 or at <http://schindler.com.au/dvd_the_fall_of_rabaul_kavieng> (The Fall of Rabaul and Kavieng) and <http://schindler.com.au/dvd_sales> (Some Came Home).
* **Sisters of War.** ABC TV. Available online through ABC bookshops. This DVD is also available to teachers through Screenrights at <https://www.enhancetv.com.au/video/sisters-of-war/4239> .

This DVD is suitable for years 11 and 12 students of history. It is a drama based on the true wartime experiences of two remarkable Australian women, Lorna Whyte, an Australian army nurse, and Sister Berenice Twohill, a Catholic teaching nun from northern New South Wales. Although they were very different people, their friendship formed after the fall of Rabaul would survive the incredible events of the Second World War. It is story of strength, survival and forgiveness.

Teachers have also found this DVD useful when their students study **The Shoe-Horn Sonta** by John Mistro in the senior English syllabus. John Mistro also was the screenwriter for **Sisters of War.** The theme in Sisters of War is similar to the theme in The Shoe-Horn Sonta and teachers can use this DVD to give their students a better understanding of the play.

**Books**

* **Finding Darcy.** Sue Lawson. Black Dog Books. Black Dog Books. Fitzroy. Victoria. 2008. <http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/Finding-Darcy-9781742030234> . This book which is suitable for boys and girls from 12 years old and upwards, is about a young teenage Australian girl, Darcy Abbott, and her family, and the shadows that the past can cast on families and societies. The story is inspired by Sue Lawson’s grandfather, William McLennan, VX23813, 2/22nd Battalion, who is listed as dying on the MS Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942. Includes excellent classroom worksheets.
* **Hostages to Freedom. The Fall of Rabaul.** Peter Stone. Ocean Enterprises Yarram. Victoria. 1995. ISBN 0646 2412490. Contact Peter Stone at [peter@oceans.com.au](mailto:peter@oceans.com.au). A very comprehensive

account of the fall of Rabaul and what happened afterwards.

* **When The War Came : New Guinea Islands 1942.** Compiled by Gayle Thwaites. Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA). Roseville. NSW. 2017. ISBN 978-0-6480085-1-4. With over 150 contributors and over 400 photos & over 500 large print pages this book gives readers a unique insight into the fall of Rabaul and its aftermath. Many moving family stories. Available from the PNGAA – <https://memorial.org.au/Assets/WhenTheWarCame.pdf> .
* **Abandoned and Sacrificed : The tragedy of the Montevideo Maru.** Kathryn Spurling. New Holland Publishers. Chatswood. NSW. 2017. ISBN 9781742579092.
* **Line of Fire.** Ian Townsend. Fourth Estate (Harpers Collins). Sydney. 2017. After Pearl Harbour came Rabaul. This is a true story of a forgotten war, a lost family, and a 11 year old Australian boy who was shot as a spy.
* **Keepers of the Gate : personal stories of NGVR soldiers.** Frank James (Bob) Collins. NGVR and PNGVR Ex-Members Association Inc. Park Ridge Qld. 2016. ISBN 9780992585570.
* **The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, NGVR, 1939-1943 – a history.** Ian Downs.Pacific Press. 1999. ISBN 187515003X. Easily readable with photographs included. This history is significant as this unit is the only Australian Militia unit to be awarded a US Presidential Citation. Ian Downs has an illustrious military service in PNG.
* **Double Diamonds (Australian Commandos in the Pacific, 1941-45).** Karl James.Newsouth Publishing. (University of NSW). Sydney. 2016. ISBN 9781742234922. This book includes a chapter on the 1st Independent Company, Australia’s first commando unit raised during WWII, who lost 133 men on the MS Montevideo Maru.
* **The Coast Watchers.** Patrick Lindsay. Random House Australia (William Heinemann). North Sydney. 2010. ISBN 9781741669244.
* **The Coast Watchers.** Eric Feldt. Penguin Australia. 1991. ISBN-10:0140149260.
* **Rabaul 1942.** Douglas Aplin. Pacific Press. Broadbrach Waters. Qld. 1994. ISBN 1875150021.
* **Mangroves, Coconuts and Frangipani – The story of Rabaul.** Neville Threlfall. 2012. ISBN 978-0-646-58310-5. Contact the author, Unit 91, Nareen Gardens, 19 Bias Ave, Bateau Bay 2261. An excellent and well written publication. The author was a Uniting Church missionary. He learnt the local language and is able to broaden the historical perspective. Covers WWI, WWII and beyond. A good companion to the recommended reading, *Hostages to Freedom.*
* **Hell and High Fever.** David Selby. Pacific Books. Sydney. 1971. ISBN 9780207122255. David Selby was a member of Lark Force and with around 400 other Australians, soldiers & civilians, was able to escape from the Japanese by walking through the New Britain jungle and eventually was rescued by boats who took them to safety. This book describes his war time experiences and how he survived in the jungle. After the war David Selby became a prominent Australian Judge.
* **We who are about to Die, the story of John Lerew – a hero of Rabaul 1942.** Lex McAuley.Banner Books. 2007. ISBN 9781875593293. The first 10 chapters are particularly relevant to the times and compliment the book, *Hell and High Fever.*
* **Not Now Tomorrow – ima nai ashita – Australian Civilian Nurses – Prisoners of the Japanese, New Guinea and Japan 1942-1945.** Alice M Bowman. Daisy Press. Bangalow. NSW. 1996. ISBN – 10: 0646203606.The author was a civilian nurse from the Government Hospital in Rabaul when Rabaul fell on 23 January 1942. In her book Alice Bowman tells her story – a story of the Rabaul nurses – prisoners of the Pacific War.
* **A Very Long War : The Families Who Waited.** Margaret Reeson. Melbourne University Press. Melbourne. 2000. ISBN 0522 849091. Written about the families who were evacuated to Australia just before the bombing and invasion of New Britain and New Ireland commenced.
* **Whereabouts unknown.** Margaret Reeson. Albatross Books. Sutherland. NSW. 1993.
* **He’s Not Coming Home.** Gillian Nikakis. Lothian Books. South Melbourne. 2005.
* **Yours Sincerely, Tom. A Lost Child of the Empire.** Margaret L Henderson. Openbook Publishers. Adelaide. 2005.
* **Yours Sincerely, Tom Revisited.** Seaview Press. Henley Beach. South Australia. 2005.
* **Heroes at Sea.** Don Wall. Don Wall Publications. Mona Vale. NSW. 1991. ISBN 0646035789. Honour Rolls for 1,800 Australia POWs and civilian internees who died on hellships, including the MS Montevideo Maru during WWII.
* **Deaths on the hellships : prisoners at sea in the Pacific war.** Gregory F Michno. Naval Institute Press. Annapolis. MD. USA. 2001. ISBN 1557504822. The author concludes from the statistics that it was more dangerous to be a prisoner on the Japanese hellships than a U.S. Marine in the Pacific Campaign. (The MS Montevideo Maru was the first Japanese hellship loaded with POWs to be sunk by a U.S. submarine).

* **‘SOME CAME HOME’ DVD: AN INSIGHT INTO THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT OF WWII ON AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY**

**1. New Guinea Becomes a Mandated Australian Territory**

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| Australia’s sacrifice in the Great War had been immense — 59,000 dead. In a population of 4 million, nearly 420,000 men had enlisted. Billy Hughes would now invoke this blood sacrifice. His opportunity came at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. World leaders gathered to decide the fate of defeated Germany and its colonies. The key figure was US President Wilson, who dreamt of creating a new international body, the League of Nations.  Hughes had contempt for Wilson’s dreams. Wilson wanted the new League of Nations to have ultimate responsibility for the former German colony. Hughes rejected this. He was insistent that Australia must annex the former German colony.  *“Australia had suffered 90,000 casualties in this war and lost 60,000 killed . . . The islands were as necessary to Australia as water to a city... .... If there were at the very door of Australia a potential or actual enemy, Australia could not feel safe.” (AA A981/1, WAR P16*  Britain’s Prime Minister, David Lloyd George watched the clash between the two men.  *“Mr Hughes ... listened intently with his hand cupped around his neck ...The president asked him slowly and solemnly, ‘… that if the whole civilised world asks Australia to agree to a mandate in respect of these islands, Australia is prepared still to defy the appeal of the whole civilised world?’ Mr Hughes answered; ‘that’s about the size of it, President Wilson.” (ref: Lloyd George diary — p.542.)*  But a compromise was agreed. Lloyd George forced Hughes to abandon annexation and accept a trustee system where New Guinea was administered by Australia.  *"Our first duty as Australians is to Australia, its industries both primary and secondary but our next duty is to Britain upon whose strength and power our safety and progress depends.”*  Source: excerpts from ‘100 Years: Australian Story’ Episode 5.2 <http://www.abc.net.au/100years/EP5_2.htm> |

Not everyone at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 supported Australia’s request for the former German New Guinea becoming an Australian Territory. Complete the following table with the roles and opinion of these three key men.

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| Britain’s Prime Minister,  Lloyd George | USA President,  Woodrow Wilson | Australian Prime Minister, Billy Hughes |
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Prime Minister Hughes wanted Australia to annex German occupied New Guinea but ended with a League of Nations’ mandate over the territory. What is the difference?

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What responsibilities did Australia now have for New Guinea?

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**2. The Fall of Rabaul**

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| In late 1941, the Federal government realised the dangers of stranding an under strength and under-supported garrison in Rabaul, but conscientiously believed this measure was justified in the defence of the Australian mainland. So the government chose to retain Lark Force and civil administrators in Rabaul, and they did not encourage other civilians to leave this Australian territory until it was too late.    Source: The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru. Time for Recognition - *A Submission to the Commonwealth Government* |

Locate Rabaul on a map. Why would Rabaul, a deep sea harbour, be of strategic importance during war time?

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Source: ‘Australia’s War 1939 – 1945: The Fall of Rabaul’. <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/australias-war-19391945/events/japanese-advance-december-1941march-1942/fall>

Using this source, add information to the boxes below regarding numbers, equipment, training and strategic planning and preparation for invasion of the different groups at Rabaul.

2/22nd Battalion

2/10th Field Ambulance

Australian army Nursing Service

Anti-tanks and coastal artillery batteries

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles

24th Squadron

Ist Independent Company

Civilians

Why was the defence of Rabaul over in a couple of hours?

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Who gave the order ‘everyman for himself’ and why?

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Why was the 24th Squadron able to successfully escape, even though their aircraft had been decimated, while most of the men of the 2/22 were captured or killed?

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Why do you think there is limited reference to the civilian population of Rabaul at the time of the invasion?

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**3. The Fall of Ambon**

Use the information sheet, ‘Australia’s War 1939 – 1945: The Fall of Ambon’ [ <http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/conflicts/australias-war-19391945/events/japanese-advance-december-1941march-1942/fall-ambon> ] to answer the following questions

Who was given the task of defending the Bay of Amon and the airfields at Laha and Liang?

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What were Lieutenant ant-Colonel Roach’s concerns and what was the result of his request for reinforcements of men and equipment?

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Who was given the task of defending the Bay of Amon and the airfields at Laha and Liang?

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Gull Force suffered over 75% casualty rate. What were contributing factors for this large loss of life?

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**4. Defence of the ‘Malay Barrier’**

Source 1:

The Victorian RSL magazine, *Mufti*, published an article in 1954 headed, 'Forget the Bad, Remember the Good'. It recorded that twenty people had attended a ceremony at the cenotaph to remember the twelfth anniversary of the fall of Rabaul. The anonymous writer was not writing to lament that so few people turned out on this day: he was arguing that the anniversary should not have been marked at all. 'Defeats', he wrote, 'are depressing enough … without dwelling on them'. He urged that if Rabaul was to be remembered at all it should be on the anniversary of its 'recapture' in 1945

The disasters which befell Australians and their Dutch and indigenous allies in the defence of the mis-named Malay barrier were only the first of a string of defeats which Australians faced in 1942. Exactly sixty years after it is fitting in this place above all others we should remember them and those to whom they brought so much suffering.

Extracts from a speech by Peter Stanley, 26 January 2002, ‘Remembering 1942: The defence of the 'Malay barrier. Rabaul and Ambon, January 1942’ <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/1942-defence-of-the-Malay-barrier>

Source 2:

War is a terrible thing.  It reaps souls and lives unlived and leaves waste, sorrow and broken years in its wake. Too often our remembrance can appear to give more emphasis to the nobility of sacrifice, rather than face the anguish and deep personal sorrow such sacrifice demands of those who go on living. At times, our ceremonies can gloss over the mistakes that are made in war, but mistakes and miscalculations are intrinsic to battle because war is solely a human endeavour. That is not the case today, for at this gathering we remember one of the most tragic episodes in the annals of Australian military history. The sinking of the requisitioned transport vessel, the Montevideo Maru, by an American submarine, the USS Sturgeon, forty miles West of Luzon on the 1st of July 1942 was the culmination of a chain of disastrous strategic and tactical decisions.

Extract from a speech by Lt Gen David Morrison, Chief of Army, 30 June 2012, ‘Remembering the Montevideo Maru and the Fall of Rabaul’

<http://memorial.org.au/About/MorrisonSpeech.htm>

Use a graphic organiser to compare and contrast the three views expressed in these two sources.

At the War Cabinet meeting on 12 December 1941 the Australian Government Ministers were presented with 3 options for the Rabaul garrison:

1) Retain the present position

2) Reinforce the garrison

3) Withdraw and abandon the area.

Which choice did the Government make?

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What may have been the reasons for this decision?

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What were the consequences of this decision?

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Many of the servicemen who managed to escape, and the families of those who died, felt they’d been sacrificed by the Australian Government for the greater good of the war efforts. Do you agree? Give reasons to support your opinion.

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**5. ‘Some Came Home’ DVD trailer.**

Complete following table after watching the DVD

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| John May (Padre)  photo | Why did John May feel he should not point out he was a POW?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Why do you think having someone like John May would help POWs survive?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Norm Furness  photo | What insight did Norm Furness give of the character of the diggers and why would recalling these memories be so emotionally painful, 70 years later?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Rudy Buckley  photo | In 1942, when Rudy was 12 years old, he saw Australian servicemen and civilians being taken to a vessel anchored in the harbour. A soldierthrew Rudy his army issue handkerchief on which was written his name and serial number. Rudy kept it in a buried tin box, along with other Australian items. He witnessed the brutality of the Japanese, including the death of his father. Why do you think Rudy kept this memorabilia and what might the consequence been if it was discovered?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Lorna Johnson  (Army nursing sister)  photo | How were the POW nurses treated?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Why did the nurses never give up hope?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Sister Bernice (Catholic nun)  photo | What did the Japanese tell Sister Bernice and the internees to make them think Japan was winning the war?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  How did she know the war was over?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

Why do you think John Schindler choose the title ‘Some Came Home’?

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